



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE
 FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

OCA 1550-88

Serial:

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Mr. John Helgerson
 Director, Office of Congressional Affairs
 Room 7D43
 Central Intelligence Agency

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Dear John:

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On 11 March 1988 of my staff provided to of the IC Staff a response to Senator Helms' letter of February 17, 1988. That letter requested information as to whether certain agencies maintain information on Members of Congress or their staffs and whether such information is disseminated to representatives of any foreign government including, specifically, the Government of Panama. We have since heard that the DCI may forward separate responses from each agency rather than submitting a consolidated Community response. To facilitate that approach we are submitting a more formal response to you.

The National Security Agency does not maintain, i.e., collect or retain in name retrievable form, information on Members of Congress or their staffs. NSA fully complies with the provisions in Executive Order 12333 and its implementing regulations.

Certain offices within NSA, e.g., the Office of General Counsel and the Office of Legislative Affairs, do hold information that is available to the general public in publications such as Politics in America, The Congressional Staff Directory, and The Congressional Yellow Book, and subscribes to the Washington Alert legislative tracking system. This publicly available information is used to enable this Agency to conduct official business with the Congress.

For example, when members and staff request to meet with NSA officials at our headquarters or at field sites, my office will announce the visit and provide such information as may be necessary to facilitate both administrative details and substantive discussions: generally, who is coming, their committee memberships, and what they want to learn. NSA offices visited generally report on the outcome of the meeting and what, if any, action needs to be taken. Should members or their staffs request to meet with officials of a foreign government with which we have a cryptologic relationship, again NSA may, as a matter of protocol, make similar kinds of arrangements. NSA has not, however, provided any information on Members of Congress or their staffs to the Government of Panama.

If you have any questions please call me or [] of STAT
my staff.

Sincerely,

[]

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Chief
Legislative Affairs

Copy Furnished:

[] IC Staff

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